

Harris Lot Dance Hall
CH-731
Harris Lot
Private

Circa 1880

Now functioning as a vacant tobacco barn and stripped of much of its original materials, the Harris Lot Dance Hall once consisted of a simple 2-story, balloon framed building with a front gable orientation. The structure faces northeast and stands directly along the road on a 35 acre parcel known as Harris Lot. Originally built in the third quarter of the 19th century, in the early 20th century, the hall fell into disuse and was converted into a barn with the addition of full-length sheds on either eave end. The Harris Lot Dance Hall is the only documented example of its kind in Charles County. Said to be associated with the Catholic Church, this structure was one of several commercial and otherwise public buildings in the small hamlet of Harris Lot. Other known buildings included a blacksmith shop, storehouse, stable, wagonhouse and dwelling.

Inventory No. CH-731

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Harris Lot Dance Hall

other

2. Location

street and number	SE corner Banks O' Dee & Rock Point Rd	not for publication
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city, town	Harris Lot	vicinity
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county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Demott, Elva B. & Marie L. DeLozier
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street and number	11220 Delozier Farm Road	telephone
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city, town	Newburg	state	MD	zip code	20664-3022
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 83 p. 50

city, town	LaPlata	liber	1585	folio	215
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count	
						Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/>	public	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	site			<input type="checkbox"/>	domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	social
<input type="checkbox"/>	object			<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation
				<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary	<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress
				<input type="checkbox"/>	government	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown
				<input type="checkbox"/>	health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use
				<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	other:
						<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
						<u> </u>	<u> </u>
						<u> </u>	<u> </u>
						<u> </u>	<u> </u>
						<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
						<u> </u>	<u> </u>
							buildings
							sites
							structures
							objects
							Total
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
						0	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-731

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Now functioning as a vacant tobacco barn and stripped of much of its original materials, the Harris Lot Dance Hall once consisted of a simple 2-story, balloon framed building with a front gable orientation. The structure faces northeast and stands directly along the road on a 35 acre parcel known as Harris Lot. Originally built in the third quarter of the 19th century, in the early 20th century, the hall fell into disuse and was converted into a barn with the addition of full-length sheds on either eave end.

The hall stands on a brick pier foundation. Principal posts are large hewn timbers attached with pegged mortise and tenon joinery. Original wood shingles are revealed under the current metal roof. The cornice is boxed and reveals traces of earlier reddish-brown paint. The original novelty siding is found on the southwestern elevation and is fastened with irregular machine-cut nails. The original mustard colored paint is found on the exterior eave walls protected under the shed additions.

The northwestern elevation is now sheathed with flush horizontal boards. Two original centered windows on the second floor now hold a hinged plank door. The centered door on the first floor this elevation has been enlarged. The southeastern elevation includes the original novelty siding and has two first floor windows flanking a single centered door.

In the 1960's the interior was stripped of its original tongue and groove flooring and replaced with plank boards. The original oak 2 1/4" boards were reused in the additions to nearby Locust Grove CH-353. At some point, down braces were added to stabilize the structure. Narrow tongue and groove boards were used as interior paneling throughout the structure.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-731

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1850-1875	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	c. 1850-1875		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Harris Lot Dance Hall is the only documented example of its kind in Charles County. Said to be associated with the Catholic Church, this structure was one of several commercial and otherwise public buildings in the small hamlet of Harris Lot. Other known buildings included a blacksmith shop, storehouse, stable, wagonhouse and dwelling.

Harris Lot originally included at least 25 acres. 3/4 of an acre including a blacksmith shop, wagonhouse, storehouse, stable and dwelling was sold to James R. Perry in 1881. One acre was conveyed to Dawson P. Norris in 1935 and later the State Roads Commission acquired several acres for the expansion of Rock Point Road. The Maryland Directory of 1878 identifies the village, near then Potomac and Wicomico Rivers, as having four general stores and a mill supporting a population of 85. The village included two blacksmiths, two physicians and a brickmaker. Three teachers taught at the public school, and three churches were found nearby including a Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal and Catholic congregation. Principal crops included wheat, oats, corn and tobacco. Harris Lot was noted as a place where "emigrants here will find cheap land, well adapted to the growth of all kinds of crops, especially hay and stock raising, and the waters abounding with game, fish, oysters, crabs and terrapins in season."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-731

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2

Acreage of historical setting 25

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Harris Lot Dance Hall is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 83 parcel 50.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Currey Hardy/ Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Dept

date 12/3/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600



CH- 731 Charles County, MD
Name: HARRIS LOT DANCE HALL
Location: HARRIS LOT
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH NORTH



CH 731

HARRIS LOT DANCE HALL

CHARLES CO, MD

9/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

LOOKING SW

1002



CH-731

HARRIS LOT DANCE HALL

CHARLES CO, MD

9/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

LOOKING W

20P2